GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3143
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2002
FAILURE OF X-RAY MACHINES AT KOLKATA AIRPORT
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the X-Ray machines installed at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport at Kolkata failedto detect weapons which were being carried by a Thai Airways passengers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted and responsibility fixed for the lapses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

(a) to (d) The following objectionable materials were detected by the X-Ray machine installed at Kolkata Airportfrom a passenger who was to take Thai Airways flight on 15.5.2002:

i) 4 pieces of sword measuring 16` approx.,
ii) 4 pieces of hollow club of 10` dimension,
iii) 2 pieces of model of axes.

These materials were detected during primary frisking conducted by CISF personnel.Since the passenger had stated that these items were carried for Ram Lila Ceremony in Bangkok, he was allowed to carry them. However, during secondary ladder point frisking conducted by the airline`s personnel, these items were recovered and the passenger was handed over to the Police and a case was registered against him.
The officer of the CISF who had cleared his baggage initially, has been placed under suspension for having cleared the objectionable items.